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**In the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**

Inventor Messerschmidt et al.

Paper:

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Group: 2872

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Examiner: Nguyen, Thong Q

Title: Sample Holder

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

**Response to Office Action**

Responsive to the Office Action mailed 1/27/2004, Applicant submits the following in complete response thereto, and requests reconsideration of the Claims presented.

**Amendment**

Please amend the Claims as shown on the attached sheets.

Please amend the Specification as shown on the attached sheets.

Please amend the Drawings as shown on the attached sheets.

**Fee**

After the present Amendment, there are 31 Claims total, of which 5 are independent. Applicant previously paid for 40 total Claims, and 4 independent Claims. Accordingly, the fee due with this Amendment is **\$43** corresponding to 1 additional independent Claims at the applicable small entity rate of \$43 per independent Claim, and 0 additional total Claims at the applicable small entity rate or \$9 per dependent Claim.

This deadline for response to the Office Action, with a two month extension, fell on Sunday. This Response is filed on the next business day. Accordingly, a two month extension is requested, at **\$210** at the applicable small entity rate. If a three month extension is required, please consider this a request for a three month extension.

The total of the above fees is **\$253**. The Director is hereby authorized to charge that fee, and charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments, to deposit account **502443**.

07/02/2004 BABRAHA1 00000101 502443 10628839

01 FC:2252 210.00 DA

07/02/2004 BABRAHA1 00000101 10628839

02 FC:2201 43.00 DA

**In the Drawings.**

Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets, containing only the following changes:

Figure 2 - reference "293" deleted;

Figure 4 – reference "410" deleted (note that reference "402" also cited by the Office is mentioned in the specification in paragraph [0028], page 9 line 24);

Figure 5 – references "510", "592", "593", and "594" deleted (note that reference "502" also cited by the Office is mentioned in the specification in paragraph [0029], page 9 line 33);

Figure 6 – references "619", "692", "693", and "694" deleted (note that reference "602" also cited by the Office is mentioned in the specification in paragraph [0030], page 10 line 4);

Figure 7 – reference "710" deleted;

Figure 8 – references "807" and "810" deleted.